

Message Text

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ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 111646Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3689

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UK

SUBJ: PLO REPS INVITED TO IPU CONFERENCE

REF: LONDON 12208

1. CONTROVERSY OVER ADMISSION OF FOUR PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION MEMBERS TO UK FOR MEETING OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION MEETING CONTINUES TO RESOUND PUBLICLY. ACCORDING TO FCO, THREE OF PROPOSED OBSERVERS, HAMMAMI, FALLAHA AND SAYEGH ALREADY HAVE UK VISAS, AND ONLY FAHOUM APPARENTLY HAS NOT. (DAILY MAIL QUOTES FAHOUM AS STATING IN DAMASCUS THAT PROTESTING MPS ARE WORKING FOR ZIONISTS AND HE IS "VERY ANGRY" AT DAILY MAIL EDITORIAL). IN ANY CASE, WHETHER OR NOT VISAS ISSUED, ISSUE IS ADMISSION OR EXCLUSION ON SECURITY GROUNDS. LABOR MP ERIC MOONMAN STATES HE HOPES TO SEE HOME SECRETARY JENKINS TODAY, AND THAT IF LATTER IS NOT PERSUADED TO INTERVENE OR "STOP THEM", THERE WILL BE CAMPAIGN OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. ACCORDING TO FCO, UK POLICY IS STILL TO CON-

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STRATIONS. ACCORDING TO FCO, UK POLICY IS STILL TO CON-

SIDER EACH APPLICATION ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS ON ITS OWN MERITS. FURTHERMORE, HOLDERS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF ARAB PASSPORTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO OBTAIN VISAS.

2. MEANWHILE, IN SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE AUGUST 10, WRITER DAVID HOLDEN CLAIMS THAT FOUR ARE "WELL-KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE MOST MODERATE WING" OF THE PLO, THAT "HAMMAMI IS A PERSISTENT ADVOCATE OF DE FACTO PALESTINIAN CO-EXISTENCE WITH ISRAEL CONFINED TO ITS 1967 BORDERS", THAT HAMMAMI HAS ALREADY LIVED IN LONDON FOR SEVERAL YEARS DEALING INFORMALLY WITH OFFICIALS OF HMG, AND THAT HMG SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE MODERATE LEADERSHIP WING OF PLO BY WELCOMING THEM TO SUCH MEETINGS. TIMES EDITORIAL AUGUST 11, WHILE CRITICIZING IPU MAJORITY FOR HAVING INSISTED INVITING PLO WHICH "IS NOT IN ANY SENSE A GOVERNMENT, STILL LESS A PARLIAMENTARY ONE", NEVERTHELESS POINTS OUT THAT MAIN ISSUE IS WHETHER MEMBERS OF PLO ARE "LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN OR ENCOURAGE ACTS OF TERRORISM IN BRITAIN OR ARE LIKELY TO PROVOKE SERIOUS PUBLIC DISORDER". IF SO, SAYS TIMES, THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR DENYING THEM ENTRY; IF NOT, SINCE MAJORITY OF IPU FAVORED INVITING THEM AND BRITAIN IS HOSTING MEETING, THE PALESTINIANS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE UP INVITATION.

RICHARDSON

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